

Initiatives on Reducing Environmental Factors Affecting Human Health

Objective: You are to analyze grassroots initiatives that are intended to reduce the impact of environmental factors on human health (e.g., community cleanup of local aquatic or terrestrial environments; class action lawsuits against major polluters) [AI, C]. Start with an introduction to certain environmental factors that are negatively impacting human health and then discuss the initiatives being undertaken.

Sample issue: People from the Grassy Narrows Reserve in Northern Ontario were experiencing chronic health problems. They commissioned a study, which found that many animals and fish that were part of a traditional diet were contaminated with mercury and heavy metals. Guidelines were proposed to limit consumption of the affected animals, and thereby improve people's health.

Sample questions: Are there any grassroots groups in your community concerned with the state of the environment and its impact on human health? What types of actions do they take? What action has been taken by the Bulkley Valley and Lakes District Airshed Management Society to help reduce the impact of particulate matter in air on the health of local people? What is the Yellow Fish Road program, and how does it try to reduce the number of contaminants in local water sources?

Secondly, evaluate the effectiveness of government initiatives that are intended to reduce the impact of environmental factors on human health (e.g., Ontario Ministry of the Environment smog advisories; provincial laws regulating drinking water; WHMIS regulations on hazardous material) [AI, C]

Sample issue: To protect the health of people who live on the street, the City of Toronto issues heat and cold alerts, opening cooling centres or heated shelters where people can escape extreme weather conditions. However, not everyone is aware of these services, and there are not always enough spaces to meet needs.

Sample questions: Why does the Ontario Ministry of the Environment issue smog advisories? Why are there concerns about the water quality in many First Nations communities in Canada? Why did the water treatment

plant in Kashechewan, in Northern Ontario, fail to protect the community from contaminated water?

After you have summarized many grassroots and government initiatives, you are expected to demonstrate creative solutions and critical thinking by making connections between the different initiatives by discussing the barriers they experience, or may experience in the future, how they can improve or converge.

Use appropriate terminology related to human health and the environment, including, but not limited to: *contaminants, heavy metals, air pollution, and pesticide* [C]

Your work should be concluded in a professional report that is three to four pages in length (single-spaced). A title page should precede the report. The major aspects of your report should also be compiled into a fascinating PowerPoint presentation that is thoroughly prepared and includes pictures, figures or videos. Include a proper bibliography.

Report due date: Report and Presentations are due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. Presentations will begin on Wednesday, March 6.

Name: _____

Report Criteria:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Research and Content - <i>Knowledge & Understanding</i>	Content understanding is limited, content derived from a limited number of (1-2 references)	Some content understanding is evident, content is derived from a some resources (3-4 references)	Considerable content understanding is evident, content is derived from a considerable resources (5-6 references)	Thorough content understanding is evident, content thoroughly derived from a several resources (7-8 references)
Connections & Problem Identification - <i>Thinking & Inquiry</i>	Problems are identified, solutions are proposed, and connections are made regarding the initiatives examined in a limited fashion.	Problems are identified, solutions are proposed, and connections are made regarding the initiatives examined in a some fashion.	Problems are identified, solutions are proposed, and connections are made regarding the initiatives examined in a considerable fashion.	Problems are identified, solutions are proposed, and connections are thoroughly made regarding the initiatives examined.
Methods used Initiatives are Explained and Assessed - <i>Application</i>	A limited description of various initiatives and the impacts they have had.	Some description of various initiatives and the impacts they have had.	Considerable description of various initiatives and the impacts they have had.	A thorough description of various initiatives and the impacts they have had.
Scientific terminology, Organization, Spelling & Grammar - <i>Communication</i>	Limited use of proper grammar and scientific terminology and is apparent.	Some use of proper grammar and scientific terminology is apparent.	Use of proper grammar and scientific terminology is mostly apparent	Accurate grammar and thorough use of scientific terminology (i.e., inference, deduction)

Name: _____

Presentation Criteria:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Familiarity with Content - <i>Knowledge & Understanding</i>	Presenter is prepared, well-versed with content, and can answer questions posed in a limited manner.	Presenter is prepared, well-versed with content, and can answer questions posed in some ways.	Presenter is prepared, well-versed with content, and can answer questions posed in a considerable manner.	Presenter is prepared, well-versed with content, and can answer questions posed in a thorough manner.
Connections & Problem Identification - <i>Thinking & Inquiry</i>	A discussion is provided on the following: problems are identified, solutions are proposed, and connections are made regarding the initiatives examined in a limited fashion.	A discussion is provided on the following: problems are identified, solutions are proposed, and connections are made regarding the initiatives examined in a some fashion.	A discussion is provided on the following: problems are identified, solutions are proposed, and connections are made regarding the initiatives examined in a considerable fashion.	A discussion is provided on the following: problems are identified, solutions are proposed, and connections are thoroughly made regarding the initiatives examined.
Methods used Initiatives are Explained and Assessed - <i>Application</i>	A discussion is provided on the following: A limited description of various initiatives and the impacts they have had.	A discussion is provided on the following: Some description of various initiatives and the impacts they have had.	A discussion is provided on the following: Considerable description of various initiatives and the impacts they have had.	A discussion is provided on the following: A thorough description of various initiatives and the impacts they have had.
Scientific terminology, Organization, Presentation - <i>Communication</i>	Presentation is limited in information and use of proper scientific terminology and is apparent.	Presentation is somewhat informative and scientific terminology is apparent.	Presentation is considerably good (informative) and a use of scientific terminology is mostly apparent	A strong presentation (informative) and thorough use of scientific terminology (i.e., inference, deduction)

